

UNITED
As One,
Serving Many



2015 Chicago Federal Employee of the Year

2015 Federal Employee of the Year Nomination Information & Criteria

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A message from the FEB Chairman and our Awards Committee Chairman

Colleagues:

Help us to identify and celebrate the extraordinary accomplishments of your agency this year! We listened to your concerns about the cost so we are redesigning the FEB awards program. Please see the attached package for information and criteria for each category, and help us to find and publicly thank Chicago's best.

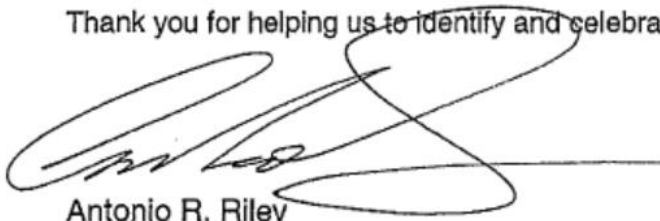
For 2015, instead of holding an employee luncheon or event at a large venue at a cost to nominees and their agencies, the FEB senior leadership will travel to award winners' agencies to present awards at agency ceremonies or town hall meetings. This will allow award winners to share their success with all of their colleagues and managers. We are also expanding the social media and press presence at these awards so that our employees can be honored in a more public way.

We know that the Chicago FEB awards program has long been a part of our federal family's tradition and that it was time to change, based on your feedback about cost challenges and budget constraints. After this year's program, we will assess if the community wants to reestablish the venue-based program. Presenting at the workplace has already been implemented at other FEBs across the nation with great success and we will work closely with them to ensure we use their best practices for this year's program.


*Who will you honor this year? Do you know an exceptional federal employee?
Does your team or agency have what it takes to go head-to-head with other agencies?*

We will accept nominations from December 1, 2014 through February 16, 2015.
The winners will be awarded during Public Service Recognition Week, May 4 to 8, 2015.

Thank you for helping us to identify and celebrate Chicago's best!



Antonio R. Riley
FEB Chairman
Regional Administrator Housing and Urban
Development



Poonam Bhargava, MPT
Chair, Awards Committee
Business Manager, Medicine Service Line
Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital

PURPOSE

The Federal Employee of the Year Awards is an opportunity for employees to nominate colleagues who merit special recognition for their significant contributions as public servants in a given year.

By providing a broad range of categories for recognition, the FEB ensures that any federal employee in the Chicagoland area has an equal opportunity to be considered for this recognition. It is our way of expressing a sincere thank you and to celebrate contributions made by the high caliber of dedicated **civilian, military, and postal employees** in the federal service.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The basis for the nomination of any individual should be performance and/or accomplishments within the past year. Although there may be situations in which a long range project or other extended duration work may be considered in the nomination rationale.

In comparing individuals within each category, the Criteria/Selection Subcommittee will assign weights to the evaluative factors and consider recent accomplishments.

If a question arises as to the propriety of a category for a given nomination, the Criteria/Selection Subcommittee will resolve the question.

The Criteria/Selection Subcommittee may request supportive information or supplemental data from the nominating agency.

ELIGIBILITY

1. A nominee's permanent duty location must be within one of the following counties:
 - a. ILLINOIS: Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, Will
 - b. INDIANA: Lake or Porter
2. An individual may only be nominated for ONE category.
3. The nominee for an individual award must be a current federal employee: civilian, military, or postal. Retirees who served in FY2014 are eligible.
4. Former award winners in a particular category are not eligible.
5. Former nominees may be nominated again however such nominations must reflect current performance and accomplishments.

NOMINATIONS

Nominations are appropriate not only for individual employees who have demonstrated exceptional performance in their regularly assigned duties, but also for teams of employees who have played a significant role in furthering the missions of their agencies. Nominations will be accepted from each agency in the categories identified. The criteria for each award are also defined. The agency head (or designee) must submit each nomination.

SELECTION

A diverse screening panel made up of representatives from participating agencies will evaluate all nominations. This screening panel will narrow the competition to three to five finalists in each category.

A panel composed of distinguished citizens from the federal and private sector (industry, media, education, and the arts) will select the finalists. All panelists should be aware that they may encounter Privacy Act information while reviewing nominations, and that both the review and evaluation should remain confidential.

AWARD FORMAT & CRITERIA

Awards are presented in recognition of outstanding job performance and significant contributions to the government, the public, or to the community through volunteerism. All nominations must be completed using the on-line forms. Nomination information is voluntary and not required by law. By submitting a nomination, the nominator acknowledges the Privacy Act Notice on their behalf as well as on the behalf of the nominee. Information provided will be used solely in considering the nominee for an award and in making award related announcements. **Not providing part or all of the information requested may result in the nominee not being considered.**

FORM OF RECOGNITION

The winner and the runner up in each category will receive personalized recognition. All nominated employees will receive a certificate. The only exception to this is the award for Agency of the Year. The Agency of the Year award is a "travelling trophy" kept by the winning agency for approximately 11 months from May until April, when it is returned to the Chicago Federal Executive Board for preparation for the next recipient.

Final Nomination Submissions are due by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, February 16, 2015.

If you require special accommodations for nomination submissions, please contact: poonam.bhargava@va.gov or candace.oliva@va.gov.

All nomination materials become the property of the Criteria/Selection Subcommittee and will not be returned.

5 | Questions? Please contact poonam.bhargava@va.gov or candace.oliva@va.gov.

2015 TEAM AWARDS

The following guidance applies to all team awards:

1. Teams nominated may be employed at any level in their organization.
2. Teams must consist of two or more individuals.
3. Team members are not eligible to be nominated as individuals in other categories.
4. Federal employees can be full-time, part-time, temporary, permanent, or term appointments. Retirees who served in FY2014 are eligible.
5. Teams must consist of at least two-thirds federal employees; the remaining third of the team could consist of contract employees.

1) Exceptional Public Service Team

Attributes demonstrated may include but are not limited to:

1. Exceptional dedication to public service
2. Enhancement of public service image
3. Promotes a special act or service in the public interest other than giving priority to own organization
4. Sets standard for interdisciplinary teamwork
5. Provides products and services to the public

Category 1: Exceptional Public Service Team Online Nomination Form Link

<https://chicagofeb.wufoo.com/forms/feoy-2015-cat-1-exceptional-public-service-team/>

2014 Winner

O'Hare Airport Expansion Team, Federal Aviation Administration

- Included technical staff and operating disciplines within the FAA, plus many support organizations
- Accomplishments set new standards as to how to work together to perform and execute a large and complex project

2) Superb Safety Team

Teams' primary focus must be safety. In addition to ensuring conformance with OSHA, FEOSH, and agency-specific guidelines, superb planning, design, and execution may include but are not limited to the following types of accomplishments:

1. Comprehensive control of the safety envelope for facilities
2. Flexibility; a willingness to trial new approaches in a non-penalty (test) environment in the interest of improving performance
3. Meticulous tracking and resolution of safety accidents, events, and occurrences
4. Leveraging lessons learned so problems do not repeat
5. Serve as proactive safety advisors for colleagues; alerting people to unsafe practices so that accidents may be prevented

Category 2: Superb Safety Team Online Nomination Form Link

<https://chicagofeb.wufoo.com/forms/feoy-2015-cat-2-superb-safety-team/>

2014 Winner

Safety and Office of Information Technology Team, Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital

- Developed the Workplace Accident Prevention Report (WAPR)
- Used creativity and innovation to improve work processes
- Reduced Lost Time Workman Compensation Claims

3) Outstanding Law Enforcement Team

Teams' primary focus must be law enforcement. In addition to exceeding performance metrics/goals, specific attributes demonstrated may include but are not limited to:

1. A calm, even-handed approach to handling crises; de-escalating tensions
2. Objectivity and a respectful approach in handling difficult situations
3. Excellent application of emergency management skills
4. Effective communication skills evident in working with employees and citizens
5. Practicing “seek first to understand, then to be understood”
6. Exceptional contingency planning and proactive mitigation of issues that would otherwise have a detrimental impact on employees and/or citizens

Category 3: Outstanding Law Enforcement Team Online Nomination Form Link

<https://chicagofeb.wufoo.com/forms/feoy-2015-cat-3-outstanding-law-enforcement-team/>

2014 Winner

Moreno-Medrano Investigative Team, Federal Bureau of Investigation

- Worked for more than three years and employed advance investigative techniques
- Collected evidence that resulted in indictment and conviction of eight individuals on numerous counts of fraud, extortion, and bribery

2015 INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

All individual award nominees must be federal employees. They can be full-time, part-time, temporary, permanent, or term appointments. Retirees who served in FY2014 are eligible.

4) Exceptional Administrative/Clerical Support Employee

This category is intended to honor support staff members who perform scheduling, coordination, correspondence, mail and file work, and other work of a general clerical nature. Please note that supervisors are not eligible for this category.

Demonstrates attributes and behaviors that would merit this recognition may include but are not limited to:

1. Smooth execution under pressure; an ability to execute what is needed in a timely manner in spite of possible chaotic environmental conditions (e.g. power outage, weather conditions, other emergencies)
2. Attention to detail; unflagging eye for accuracy and completeness in what is prepared
3. A positive outlook and professionalism in how the employee interacts with others; viewed as part of the solution

Category 4: Exceptional Administrative/Clerical Employee Online Nomination Form Link
<https://chicagofeb.wufoo.com/forms/feoy-2015-cat-4-exceptional-admin-clerical/>

2014 Winner

Sondra Moore, U.S. Postal Service

- Dedicated 51 years of service
- Supported business customers of approximately \$470 million in postal revenue
- Balanced perfect attendance while completing her education at Roosevelt University

5) Outstanding Community Service Employee

This category is intended to honor employees who perform significant volunteer service in their communities. Emphasis in assessing criteria should be on:

1. The demonstrated commitment of the employee
2. The scope of their efforts
3. The impact they had, either directly or indirectly, on improving the lives of those in need

Category 5: Outstanding Community Service Employee Online Nomination Form Link
<https://chicagofeb.wufoo.com/forms/feoy-2015-cat-5-outstanding-community-service/>

2014 Winner

Ruthie Maldonado-Delwiche, Railroad Retirement Board

- Served as a volunteer consultant for over 20 years to Junior Achievement
- Volunteered with:
 - WE CARE Role Model program
 - Humboldt Park Community Services
 - The Brighton Park Neighborhood Council
 - United States Hispanic Leadership Institute
 - Chicago Federal Executive Board Community Service Committee
- Inspired, educated, and assisted fellow employees and members of the community through Railroad Retirement Board Limited English Proficiency and the Workplace Diversity Committees

6) Exceptional Professional Employee

This category includes those who are employed in professional work that requires knowledge customarily acquired through education, or involves certification or licensing by a governmental body or professional association.

Persons nominated in this category may be employed at any level of professional work, but they will be compared (and thus should be nominated) on the basis of competence, efficiency, and accomplishment that distinguish them in the professional field.

Examples of attributes or skills demonstrated in this area could be:

1. Teaching the workforce or the public in their field of expertise
2. Applying their expertise to solve problems previously perceived as unfixable
3. Assuming a leadership role in a standards committee or consulting other government agencies as a recognized subject matter expert
4. Making process redesign recommendations and executing same, improving efficiencies and reducing cost

Category 6: Exceptional Professional Employee Online Nomination Form Link

<https://chicagofeb.wufoo.com/forms/feoy-2015-cat-6-exceptional-professional-employee/>

2014 Winner

Geoffrey Malia, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Midwest

- Registered Architect
- National Council of Architectural Registration Board Certified
- Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Accredited Professional (LEED AP)
- Served as a community planner in current and long range installations planning issues
- Programmer/planner developing large scale programs which extends several years
- Individual Military Construction Program projects that range from current year to 10 years out

7) Superb Program Specialist Employee

This category includes employees in any administrative or program area not specifically covered by one of the other award categories. Please note supervisors are not eligible for this category.

Qualities to be evaluated may include:

1. Skill in developing and implementing plans and strategies that facilitate:
 - a. organizational efficiency
 - b. achievements
 - c. innovation
 - d. program accomplishments

Category 7: Superb Program Specialist Employee Online Nomination Form Link
<https://chicagofeb.wufoo.com/forms/feoy-2015-cat-7-superb-program-specialist/>

2014 Winner

Magdalena Dodevska, Social Security Administration

- Five years of service (3 as a claims representative)
- Provided essential input in the document translation process
- Reduced review time from 3 months to 2 days

8) Outstanding Public Support Employee

This category is intended to honor employees whose primary job duty is to provide service to the public. Method of interaction may include face-to-face, telephone, or email communication.

The award seeks to recognize the skill and compassion of employees who provide direct services to the public, and the efforts of these employees to go the extra mile to ensure the public's needs are met.

Category 8: Outstanding Public Support Employee Online Nomination Form Link
<https://chicagofeb.wufoo.com/forms/feoy-2015-cat-8-outstanding-public-support/>

2014 Winner

Gregory Beach, Social Security Administration

- Effectively drew strength from peers, managers, and technicians for team building
- Dedication to team training increased benefit authorization from 83% to over 90%

9) Exceptional Supervisory Employee

This category includes employees who direct the work of others. This category covers supervisors or managers, regardless of the nature of the work of the subordinates.

Qualities to be evaluated include but are not limited to:

1. Skill in directing or developing subordinates
2. Organizational efficiency
3. Achievements and/or program accomplishments
4. Empowers employees to be results driven
5. Streamlines or re-engineers work activities

Category 9: Exception Supervisory Employee Online Nomination Form Link

<https://chicagofeb.wufoo.com/forms/feoy-2015-cat-9-exceptional-supervisory-employee/>

2014 Winner

Les Theilbar, Naval Station Great Lakes

- Supervised 21 personnel across four different work centers
- Embodied Navy Core Values of honor, courage, and commitment
- Drive for excellence had a significant, positive impact on his staff, as well as the 75 military and 600 civilian personnel at Naval Station Great Lakes

10) Superb Tech/Program Support Employee

This category includes positions which support professional and program work. Please note supervisors are not eligible for this category.

Skills and attributes demonstrated which influence nomination in this category may include but are not limited to:

1. Diplomacy when working with technical/ program associates
2. Attention to detail
3. An ability to anticipate risk/ vulnerabilities and to call them out, addressing them so they do not have a detrimental effect on the program
4. Technical comprehension and an ability to translate complex technical issues to user friendly language so the layperson/audience can grasp the concepts and status
5. Technical proficiency in navigating the corporate systems - a “go to” person for those who work on the program
6. High level of ownership and accountability for the program and/or the technical content

Category 10: Superb Technical/Program Support Employee Online Nomination Form Link
<https://chicagofeb.wufoo.com/forms/feoy-2015-cat-10-superb-techprogram-support/>

2014 Winner

Theodore Somers, Social Security Administration

- National Coordinator for software that is used to derive accurate task time for all Quality Review field sites
- Leader of a national workgroup created to refine task times and validate workloads
- Chicago Field Site Director’s advisor in all matters related to quality review of payments to the American public

11) Outstanding Trades and Crafts Employee

This category includes all employees engaged in the performance of skilled and unskilled work involved in any of the manual trades, crafts, and laboring occupations (e.g., carpenter, plumber, mechanic, inspector, custodian, etc.). Employees classified as WG or WS should be nominated in this category. Employees who supervise persons working in these occupations are included.

Characteristics or attributes demonstrated that merit this recognition may include but are not limited to:

1. High inner-work standards and attention to detail that minimize defects and rework
2. Excellent listening skills and a willingness to offer insights about possible alternative approaches that would yield better results
3. Ability to execute under challenging conditions (e.g., weather related, power outages etc.)
4. Customer-centric approach
5. Strong organizational skills, coupled with a level of focus and commitment to excellence so work is “done right the first time”

Category 11: Outstanding Trades & Crafts Employee Online Nomination Form Link

<https://chicagofeb.wufoo.com/forms/feoy-2015-cat-11-outstanding-tradecrafts/>

2014 Winner

Melvin McLaurin, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

- Chicago District's only fully qualified and licensed crane operator
- Successfully completed the in-house repair of the mile long Calumet Harbor detached breakwater – a 9 year, \$15M effort

12) JFK Leadership Excellence

The exceptional level of leadership recognized by this award touches on the attributes mirrored in the actions of our 35th President.

This category is to honor outstanding leadership skills and abilities of those persons in grades of GS-15 and above.

Qualities to be identified include:

1. Recognizing responsibility to lead means leveraging your team's talents
2. Engages their staff as professionals; makes them aware of "the good, the bad, and the ugly" so they can make the best possible informed decisions
3. Empowers employees to fully utilize their skills
4. Cultivates the next generation of leaders
5. Role-modeling a standard of excellence through principle based, high integrity leadership

Category 12: JFK Leadership Excellence Employee Online Nomination Form Link
<https://chicagofeb.wufoo.com/forms/feoy-2015-cat-12-jfk-leadership-excellence/>

2014 Winner:

Dr. Bruce Roberts, Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital

- Chief of Hines Mental Health Service Line (MHSL) since 2004
- Leading all VA Medical Centers in the use of tele-health visits for Veterans not living in close proximity to the care facility
- Leadership has had a profound, positive, and sustained impact on the Veterans we serve, the community, and his co-workers.
- Maintains the ethos "what is best for the Veteran"

13) Innovative Management Reform (NEW FOR 2015)

The individual will be awarded for demonstrating excellence in one or more of the following criteria:

1. Develops new and innovative ideas that result in significant organizational changes (can include: cost savings, organizational development, and partnerships)
2. Promotes creativity and risk-taking by implementing a broad set of intentions and supporting the result
3. Understands and develops diversity within the organization

Category 13: Innovative Management Reform Employee Online Nomination Form

<https://chicagofeb.wufoo.com/forms/feoy-2015-cat-13-innovative-management-reform/>

2015 AGENCY AWARD

14) Agency of the Year

This category recognizes **one agency for achieving an outstanding level of success** in local implementation of federal initiatives. Observable through:

1. Agency creates a culture that promotes employee engagement
2. Inclusion and diversity of thought, hierarchal level, and demographics blended to have the entire organization move forward
3. Implementation of a governmental program to transform, create, improve, or otherwise influence positive action resulting in a better living and working environment for U.S. citizens in the Chicagoland area

Examples of potential initiatives are listed below. Please note: Nominees are not limited to this list.

- People With Disabilities
- Combined Federal Campaign
- Volunteer America
- WellFeds Campaign
- Intergovernmental Partnerships

Category 14: Agency of the Year Online Nomination Form Link

<https://chicagofeb.wufoo.com/forms/feoy-2015-cat-14-agency-of-the-year/>

2014 Winner

Edward Hines Jr. VA Medical Center

- Staff committed to the Veterans they serve and often go above and beyond for their clients
- Hines Health Care for Homeless Veterans staff responded to 598 National Homeless Hotline calls in FY13
- HCHV has been issued 375 HUD-VASH housing vouchers, 325 currently in use by housed veterans

2015 INSTRUCTIONS FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS

On the online nomination form, you will be asked the following required items:

1. Full Name of Nominee
2. Phonetic Spelling of Nominee's name
3. Nominee's Position/Title
4. Nominee's Email
5. Nominee's Phone Number
6. Nominee's Agency Name (as it should appear on the certificate)
7. Agency Full Address

For team nominations there will be space to fill in non-lead team member's information (name, title, phone number, and email).

Team nominees will be judged on accomplishments and contributions of the team, impact of the organization, the unit's exemplary teamwork, and special efforts or innovations. You will be provided space of up to 500 words for these discussions.

Individual nominees will be judged on job competence, impact in their work environment and in the community, and personal achievements. You will be provided space of up to 500 words for these discussions. You will be required to upload a photo of the nominated team/individual.

The following items will also be required:

1. Full Name of Nominator
2. Nominator's Agency
3. Nominator's Email
4. Nominator's Phone Number

And,

1. Name of Agency Director
2. Agency Name
3. Agency Director's Email
4. Agency Director's Phone Number

To submit the form, you must confirm by inserting your initials, that you have followed your agency's protocol and acquired proper clearance for submitting the nomination.

- ❖ Items on the form with a red asterisk are required items.
- ❖ If you exit the form before submitting, your changes will NOT be saved.

Team Name *

Full Name of Team Lead *

First

Last

Phonetic Spelling

Position Title *

Agency *

If "Other" please provide agency name here.

Email *

Phone Number *

 - -

Agency Address *

City *

State *

Zip Code *

Please list the name, title, phone number, and email address for each team member nominated: *

This award category honors groups of employees that improve safety awareness through recognition and promotion of individual and organizational accident prevention measures and successes.

This team must demonstrate significant improvements, sustained excellence and/or leadership in accident prevention programs and performance.

Using 500 words or less for each factor, please identify how the team excels in each area.

Factor I – Description

Discuss the specific accomplishments and contributions of the team and why this team deserves to win the award. *

Factor II – Impact

Impact should be measured in three areas:

☐ 1) Impact on all levels of the organization, including local, regional, and national.

☐ 2) How did the accomplishments benefit the American public?

☐ 3) How did the team use creativity and innovation to change or improve work processes? *

Factor III – Teamwork

This factor focuses on the exemplary teamwork of the unit.
How did the team:

- Encourage free and open discussion?
- Respond to suggestions and problems?
- Encourage widespread participation in discussion and decision?
- Establish team rules, and enforce expectations of team members?
- Describe the contributions of the individual team members and their impact on the achievements of the team. *

Additional Comments:

By initialing below, I confirm I have followed my agency's protocol and acquired the proper clearance for submitting this form. *

Nominator's Email *

Phone Number *

– –
####

Name of Agency or Director
(NOTE: Agency Directors will receive notification of ALL nomination submissions) *

Agency *

USDA - Agricultural Mar ▼

If "Other" please provide agency name here.

Email *

Phone Number *

– –
####

Full Name of Employee *

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
First	Last

Phonetic Spelling

Position Title *

Agency *

If "Other" please provide agency name here.

Employee Name (exactly as it should appear on the certificate) *

Email *

Phone Number *

<input type="text"/>	-	<input type="text"/>	-	<input type="text"/>
###		###		####

Agency Address *

City *

State *

Zip Code *

Using 500 words or less in each factor, please identify how the nominee excels in each area.

Factor I – Job Competence

- Discuss the nominee's job performance, citing examples showing knowledge, efficiency, initiative, dedication, and other qualities demonstrating the nominee's excellent work.
- Identify how knowledge and skills enabled the nominee to get results, improve work processes or reinvent procedures that resulted in better service to the public.
- Identify any awards, commendations, or other recognition received, especially in the last year. *

Factor II – Impact

- Discuss the impact of the nominee's job performance in his or her office or worksite, in the agency, and when interacting with other government agencies.

- Describe how he or she serves the general public and community, and how his or her actions have made an impact. *

Factor III – Special Efforts

- Discuss personal achievements, especially where significant special effort or sacrifice was involved. *

Please attach a photo of the nominee. (Pictures will be used if nominee is selected as a finalist in this category).

No file chosen

Nominator's Name *

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
First	Last

Agency *

If "Other" please provide agency name here.

Nominator's Email *

Phone Number *

<input type="text"/>	-	<input type="text"/>	-	<input type="text"/>
###		###		####

Name of Agency Director

(NOTE: Agency Directors will receive notification of ALL nomination submissions) *

Agency *

USDA - Agricultural Mar ▼

If "Other" please provide agency name here.

Email *

Phone Number *

<input type="text"/>	-	<input type="text"/>	-	<input type="text"/>
###		###		####

By initialing below, I confirm I have followed my agency's protocol and acquired the proper clearance for submitting this form. *

Full Name of Agency POC *

First

Last

Phonetic Spelling

Position Title *

Agency *

If "Other", please provide the agency name here:

Agency Name (Exactly as it should appear on the certificate)

POC Email *

Phone Number *

 - -

Agency Address *

City *

State *

Zip Code *

Agencies will be judged on accomplishments, professional impact, and special efforts. Using 500 words or less, please identify how the agency excels in each area.

Factor I – Description

-Discuss the specific initiative: why it was chosen for the agency; how it fits into the individual agency's mission and goals; and the specific goals of the project.

-List the populations to be affected, desired outcomes, and realities of the project (successes and non-successes).

-Describe why you feel this agency should be considered for this award. *

Factor II – Impact

-Measure impact as it affects the public and all levels of the organization.

-How did the accomplishments make a positive difference for the American people?

-What are the plans for the future? *

Factor III – Special Factors

Describe any outstanding innovation or efforts made by management and employees. *

Agency Seal Image or Picture *

No file chosen

Nominator's Name *

First

Last

Agency *

Department of Agricultu ▼

If "Other", please provide the agency name here:

Nominator's Email *

Phone Number *

 - -

###

###

####

Name of Agency Director

(NOTE: Agency Directors will receive notification of ALL nomination submissions) *

Agency *

Department of Agricultu ▼

If "Other", please provide the agency name here:

Director's Email *

Phone Number *

 - -

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Additional Comments:

By initialing below, I confirm I have followed my agency's protocol and acquired the proper clearance for submitting this form. *

Thank You!

Coordinating judges, trophies, and the nomination process is an incredible undertaking. Special thanks to Hines VA for hosting the awards program for our Chicago Federal Community this year!

**Poonam Bhargava
Charity Hardison
Jane Moen
Candace L Oliva
Paula Roychaudhuri**

And thanks also to our Federal Executive Board Team
Jean Brown, Nancy Sanchez, Anne Watkins, and Shannon Bailey



Apollo 17 Space Shot: Astronaut photograph AS17-148-22727
courtesy NASA Johnson Space Center Gateway to Astronaut Photography of Earth